



natural CONNECTIONS

Fall
2009

Mecklenburg County Nature Preserves and Natural Resources

issue 3

Fun Ways to Stay Healthy - In a Nature Preserve Near You!

By Joshua Banks, Outdoor Recreation Specialist

“Let your walks now be a little more adventurous.”

- Henry David Thoreau

The Nature Preserves of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation offer great, year-round opportunities for you to stay healthy in fun and exciting ways. Nothing beats a guided kayak or canoe tour on Mountain Island Lake or Lake Wylie, where not only will you learn how to kayak or canoe, but you will experience beautiful scenery, build strength, improve balance, and paddle into an invigorating adventure with skilled professionals.

All three Mecklenburg County nature centers offer numerous guided trail hikes on over 33 miles of trails, where you can explore Mother Nature’s amazing creation throughout the year. You can also test your knowledge of reading a compass and GPS by participating in one of our Geocaching or orienteering programs. You can learn new or add to your existing skills while enjoying wildlife in some of the most beautiful places in Mecklenburg County. All three nature centers also offer fishing programs for young and old. Guided adaptive fishing

programs for persons with disabilities are available on Mountain Island Lake and Lake Wylie.

For the adventurous, try camping at McDowell Nature Preserve’s beautiful 56 site family campground –complete with new bathrooms and hot showers. For something new, Latta Plantation Nature Center offers a guided Segway Adventure tour that has participants quietly zip through Latta Plantation Nature Preserve at 8 miles per hour. From your Segway, you can enjoy beautiful sunsets at Buzzard Rock Overlook and encounter wildlife, including birds, squirrels, rabbits and deer. This is a low cost activity that few places in Mecklenburg County offer.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Nature Preserves encourage people to be one with nature and provide an affordable outlet to the outdoors with endless, fun opportunities to stay healthy!

For more information about these opportunities please visit www.parkandrec.com or to reach them directly:

- Latta Plantation Nature Center:**
(704) 875-1391
- Reedy Creek Nature Center:**
(704) 598-8857
- McDowell Nature Center:**
(704) 588-5224



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Fall Nature Almanac

Shorter days bring changes to plants and animals in Mecklenburg County

By Kevin Metcalf, Northwest Nature Preserve District Manager

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it..."

Rachel Carson

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
NATURE PRESERVES AND
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**PARK AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

To enrich the lives of our children through the stewardship of the county's natural resources and the efficient and responsive provision of quality leisure opportunities, experiences and partnerships.

**NATURE PRESERVES & NATURAL
RESOURCES DIVISION
MISSION STATEMENT**

To protect the region's biodiversity and natural heritage for its inherent value and for the benefit of future generations by promoting open space preservation, conserving natural communities, and fostering awareness and stewardship through environmental education and outdoor recreation.

LATTA PLANTATION NATURE CENTER
6211 Sample Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
704-875-1391 voice
704-875-1394 fax

MCDOWELL NATURE CENTER
15222 York Road
Charlotte, NC 28278
704-588-5224 voice
704-588-5226 fax

REEDY CREEK NATURE CENTER
2900 Rocky River Road
Charlotte, NC 28215
704-598-8857 voice
704-599-1770 fax

HOURS OF OPERATION
Mon. - Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Nature is sending a signal to the plants and animals of Mecklenburg County that winter is on its way - in the form of less daylight. By September 1st we have lost more than an hour and a half of daylight since the Summer Solstice. From September 1st to November 30th we will lose another three hours. Plants and animals can detect the changes in day length, also called the photoperiod. The photoperiod tells the bird when it is time to migrate and the aster when it is time to bloom.



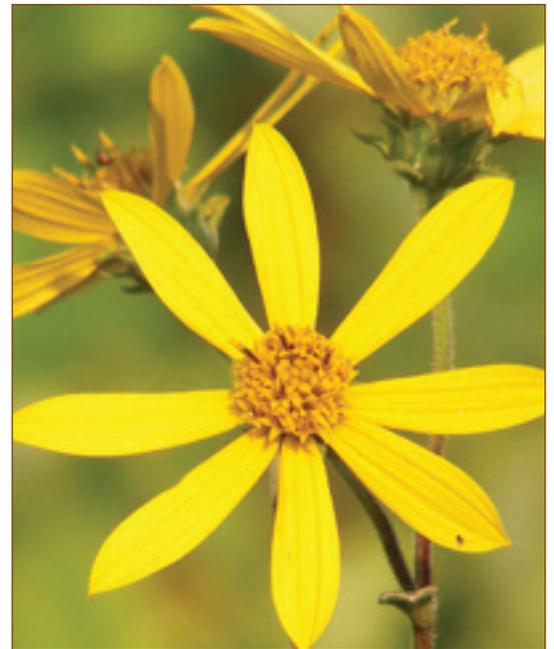
Common Nighthawk

September

The first week of September can bring the passage of Common Nighthawks to the region. Look for these long-winged relatives of the Whip-poor-will at dusk. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are busy at backyard feeders, with most leaving by month's end.

Copperheads are especially active this month. Look for them on the road after dark if it has rained recently. Some female Copperheads give birth to young at this time of year.

The rare Schweinitz's Sunflower blooms in managed prairies at McDowell and Latta Plantation Nature Preserve. The peak of blooming for this endangered species is typically September 15 - October 5.



Schweinitz's Sunflower

October

In early October, songbird migration continues as insect-eating birds such as warblers and tanagers pass through on their way to wintering grounds. Look for Magnolia Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers and American Redstarts.

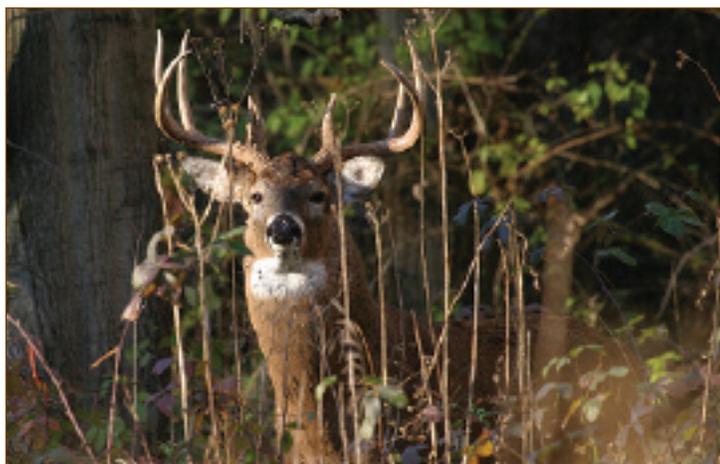
October is a good time to look for Eastern Red Bats at dusk. See if you can make out their orange-colored fur in the fading light of day.

Look for the bright red leaves of Virginia Creeper in mid October. This vine is advertising to birds that its berries are ripe. The birds will later disperse the seeds

inside the berries, helping the plant spread its progeny to new areas.

By late October look and listen for Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Golden-crowned Kinglets as they forage in the trees. On the ground, Eastern Gray Squirrels will be busy gathering acorns for the winter.

Month's end will bring additional birds that will spend the winter with us, such as White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos.



White-tailed Deer

November

The first week of November often brings the peak of fall color to the Charlotte Region, but drought conditions can delay it. Large flocks of Common Grackles can be seen streaming overhead at this time.

Non-native Multicolored Asian Ladybird Beetles (or "ladybugs") gather on sunny days at prospective places to spend the winter - including houses. These exotic ladybugs are numerous, while some native ladybug populations seem to be declining.

Mid month marks the beginning of the annual rut of White-tailed Deer. Deer are especially active at this time, so drive carefully!

By month's end, only a few wildflowers remain in grassy meadows and along roadsides, mostly species of small white or pale blue Asters, collectively referred to as "frost asters".

Enjoy the changing seasons of Mecklenburg County - visit your nature preserves throughout the year!

Special Events

Great Outdoor Fall Festival

Latta Plantation Nature Preserve

3319 Saturday, October 24

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. • all ages • FREE

Spend the day at beautiful Latta Plantation Nature Preserve and Mountain Island Lake for the second annual Great Outdoors Fall Festival. Enjoy many free activities including fishing, canoeing, kayaking, lots of children's craft activities, guided trail walks, old-fashioned field games and much more. Vendors will be on hand to show you the latest and greatest in outdoor gear and equipment. This event has something for the whole family. Please come join us for a celebration of the great outdoors!

Fairy House Festival

Latta Plantation Nature Preserve

2847 Saturday, February 13

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • All ages • FREE

Fairy Houses are whimsical habitats built by children, families, gardeners and nature lovers! This is a fun activity that everyone can enjoy and building fairy houses reconnects people with nature. Join us for this second annual festival - in your best fairy or gnome costume - that will inspire appreciation of the environment with storytelling, activities and games, all focused on fairies and nature!



September Programs

Latta Plantation Nature Center

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville

704.875.1391

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Latta Plantation Nature Center at 704-875-1391. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

Latta Plantation Nature Center Pre-K Garden Club

2801 Tuesday, September 1

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

Latta Plantation Nature Center Junior Garden Club

2824 Tuesday, September 1

2:30 - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

Latta Plantation Nature Center Adult Garden Club

2896 Tuesday, September 1

4:30 - 6 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

Come out and help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering, mulching, pruning, and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

Night Kayak Tour

3322 Tuesday, September 1

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. • 12 years and up • \$16

Join us as we take a night paddle on Mountain Island Lake. We will learn the parts of the boat, the four basic strokes and how to enter and exit the kayak. Then we will paddle by headlamp and explore along the shoreline quietly watching for different animals that come out at night. All equipment will be provided. Please bring water and a snack.

Series

Homeschool Gardener Series

2972 September 3, October 1, November 5

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$9/series

During this series we will be exploring the native plant garden and learning the important elements plants need to survive. We will be exploring the garden through hands on exploration and may even get our hands dirty.

September 3 - Plant Needs

October 1 - Leaves, Seeds, and Nuts

November 5 - Water Cycle

Young Gardener Series

3142 September 17, October 15, November 5

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 6 • \$6/series

During this series we will be exploring the native plant garden and learning what plants need to survive. We will be exploring the garden through hands on exploration and may even get our hands dirty.

September 17 - What Do Plants Need to Survive?

October 15 - Plant Discovery (Leaves, Seeds, and Nuts)

November 5 - All About Water



'First Fridays' Senior Hiking Club

Picnic Area Parking Lot

3252 Friday, September 4

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 50 and up • FREE

Active seniors find a different way to study nature as they explore the amazing trails of Latta Plantation Nature Preserve with friends old and new. Binoculars and field guides provided, or bring your own. Terrain & Distance: Moderate, approximately 1.5 - 3 miles.

Walk with a Naturalist: Basic Birding

3114 Saturday, September 5

10 - 11:30 a.m., All ages, FREE

Are you interested in the natural world around you? Would you like to notice more when you are outside? Join us on these Saturday excursions that will focus on observing, exploring and appreciating the world around us. Terrain & Distance: Moderate, approximately 1.5 - 3 miles. No registration required.



Wildlife Kayak Paddle

Horse Trailer Overflow Parking Lot

3233 Saturday September 5 • 7 - 11 a.m.

3234 Saturday September 12 • 7 - 11 a.m.

Ages 12 and older • \$16/adult, \$11/youth

Come along with us as we paddle north on the Catawba River to view the many species of wildlife native to this area. Be prepared to paddle for long periods of time. Please bring lots of water and snacks for along the way.

Butterfly Gardening

2998 Sunday, September 6

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$4/adult, \$3/child

Do you love butterflies and want to attract them to your garden. Join us for this informative program and learn how to garden for butterflies.

Family Geocaching (High tech treasure hunt) at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve

Volleyball Court at Picnic Area Parking Lot

3324 Saturday, September 12 • 9 a.m. - noon or 3323 • 1 - 4 p.m.

3325 Saturday, September 26 • 9 a.m. - noon or 3326 • 1 - 4 p.m.

Ages 12 and older • \$8/adult \$6/Youth

Seeking adventure?

Join us and bring the whole family for the high tech treasure hunt game of Geocaching at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve. You



will learn the functions of a Garmin e-Trex GPS unit and how to locate and find various types of caches. GPS units are provided or bring your own. Please bring water and a snack. Terrain & Distance: level to moderate. Approx. 2 - 3 miles.

Explore Latta Plantation Nature Preserve by GPS

Ages 12 and older • \$8/adult \$6/youth

3271 Sunday, September 13 • 9 a.m.- noon or 3280 • 1 - 4 p.m.

Seeking adventure? Join us for the high tech treasure hunt game of Geocaching at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve. You will learn the functions of a Garmin e-Trex GPS unit and how to locate and find various types of caches. GPS units are provided or bring your own. Please bring water and a snack. Terrain & Distance: level to moderate. Approx. 3 miles.

Garden Art

3010 Sunday, September 13

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 3 and older • \$3/child

Come out and bring your family and learn ways to create art in the garden.

Mushroom Walk

3066 Monday, September 14

5:30 - 7 p.m. • Ages 15 and older • \$4

September is National Mushroom Month. Come out for a walk and learn all about mushrooms and their importance in nature.

Segway Tours

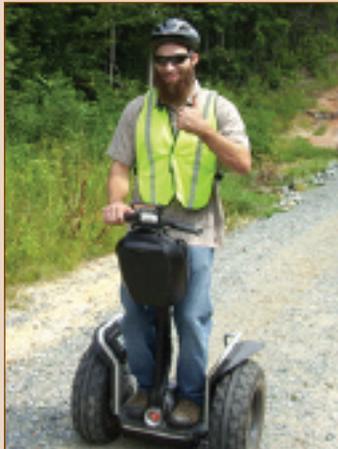
Segway Adventure Tour

Picnic Area Parking Lot

Call 704.875.1392 For Dates and Times

Ages 18 and older • \$35/adult

Discover 1,300-acre Latta Plantation Nature Preserve - on a Segway! These two-wheeled personal transporters are a fun way to see the wildlife, natural areas, and trails of Latta Plantation Nature Preserve. Highlights include Shady Trail, Catawba Trail, Buzzard Rock Trail, and gorgeous views of Mountain Island Lake. All equipment and training provided. Trail refreshments included. Tours last about three hours including a 30 - 45 minute training session.



Take A Child Outside Week Programs

Nature Night Hike

Picnic Area Parking Lot

September 24, 25 & 28

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • All ages • FREE

What better alternative to TV than an after-dinner sightseeing walk along scenic Mountain Island Lake? Join us for a stroll down the Audubon Trail as we search for nature's treasures. No registration required.

Free Family Fishing

September 29 & 30

Latta Plantation Fishing Pier

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. • All ages • FREE

Bring the whole family out for an evening of fishing and fun. Fishing gear and bait will be provided. Children 15 and under do not need a NC fishing license. No registration required.



Latta Homeschoolers: Bat Attack!

928 Wednesday, September 16

7- 8:30 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

Homeschool students will have the opportunity to hike in the preserve after dark while on the lookout for the only mammal that can fly! Learn what types of bats we have in the Piedmont and why they are beneficial creatures.

Nature Nook: "The Salamander Room"

3191 Saturday, September 19

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 6 with adult • \$2

Listen to the story, make a craft and learn all about salamanders in this monthly offering.

Sunflower Saunter

Latta Plantation Nature Preserve

934 Saturday, September 26

10 a.m.- noon • Ages 12 and older • \$4

The prairie at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve is home to an endangered sunflower that can only be found in and around Charlotte! As we saunter along the prairie, take in the beauty of late

bloomers and learn what we are doing to conserve the Schweinitz's sunflower. Terrain: moderate to hilly, gravel trails, 2 - 3 miles.

The Legend of Johnny Appleseed

3163 Saturday, September 26

1 - 3 p.m. • All ages • \$4 adult, \$3 child

He never planted trees here, but Johnny Appleseed made his mark on the natural world. Go for a short hike to see his favorite plants and then enjoy fresh apple pie!

Kayak Tour on Mountain Island Lake

Horse Trailer Overflow Parking Lot

3164 Saturday, September 26 • 9 a.m.- noon or 3228 1 - 4 p.m.

3229 Sunday, September 27 • 1 - 4 p.m.

Join with us as we paddle on Mountain Island Lake. We will learn the parts of the boat, the four basic strokes, and how to enter and exit the kayak. Then, we will paddle along the shoreline and explore the lake. All equipment provided. Please bring water and a snack.

Fantastic Fish

3067 Sunday, September 27

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$3/child

Do you love fish? This is a chance for you to learn more about fish and go fishing all in the same day. First we will discover why fish are unique and then we will go fishing on Mountain Island Lake. No prior fishing experience needed.

McDowell Nature Center

15222 York Road, Charlotte

704-588-5224

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call McDowell Nature Center at 704-588-5224. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

Home School Series: Discovering Field Guides

2153 Thursday, September 3 & 24

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 10 - 15 • \$6

Identifying the critters and plants you find along the trail can be easy once you learn to use the proper tools. We will use a different type of field guide every session while on your way to becoming a naturalist.

Fitness Fridays

2025 Friday, September 4

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 16 & up • FREE

Commit to a healthy lifestyle and join us monthly for an aerobic based hike through the nature preserve. Each week we will enjoy new areas of the preserve while focusing on staying fit!

Lake Wylie Moonlight Kayak Tour

McDowell Waterfront

1221 Friday, September 4

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. • Ages 10 & up • \$11

Kick back after work and join us for a relaxing moonlight kayak tour on Lake Wylie. All equipment and instruction provided.

Nightcrawlers

Nightcrawlers is an overnight environmental education and camping experience for schools, scout troops, birthdays and other organized groups. Night hikes, campfire cooking, animal encounters, and orienteering are just a few of the programs your group can choose from. Contact McDowell Nature Center to set up this experience for your group today.



Lake Wylie Weekend Kayak Tour

McDowell Waterfront

1257 Saturday, September 5 • 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

1268 Saturday, September 12 • 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

1270 Saturday, September 19 • 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

1276 Saturday, September 26 • 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages 10 & up • \$11

Don't miss this opportunity every Saturday in September. Paddle the border of the Carolinas with views of the Buster Boyd Bridge, Copperhead Island and more. All equipment and instruction provided.



Family Weed Warriors

1326 Monday, September 7

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 5 & up • FREE

Make a difference at McDowell Nature Preserve. Help us remove invasive plants. Bring along some gardening gloves and clippers to clear the way for our native plants.

Lake Wylie Sunset Kayak Tour

McDowell Waterfront

1309 Wednesday, September 9 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

1314 Wednesday, September 16 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Ages 10 & up • \$11

The Carolina sunset has never looked prettier. Bring along that special someone for this memorable program. All equipment and instruction provided.

Home School Special: Orienteering

2166 Thursday, September 10

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

2168 Thursday, September 17

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$3

Research indicates that young children can learn and benefit from basic wayfinding skills. During this class we will practice the basic essentials of using a map and compass.

Home School Special: Scientific Method

2189 Thursday, September 10

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$3

2190 Thursday, September 17

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

Learn about the Scientific Method and how to design a science fair project, then go home and get one started to be entered into the November Nature Science Fair.

Sunset Family Hayride

1347 Friday, September 11

6:30 - 8 p.m. • All Ages • \$5, children 5 & under FREE

Bring the family out to enjoy a fun hayride through McDowell Nature Preserve. See different habitats and learn a little about what critters can be found!

Totally Turtles

1621 Friday, September 11

10 - 10:45 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

Join us with your preschooler as we read a fabulous animal tale and then enjoy crafts and activities related to turtles.

Take A Child Outside Week Programs

Share the beauty and wonder of nature with a child and make a memory that will last a lifetime.

Babes in the Creek

Four Seasons Trailhead

1540 Monday, September 21

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • Ages 12 - 36 months • FREE

Sunset Family Fishing

McDowell Waterfront

1541 Tuesday, September 22

6:30 - 8 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Camping with Little Ones

McDowell Campground

1542 Wednesday, September 23

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. • Ages 5 & up • \$10/family

Note: This IS NOT an overnight program.

Sunset Family Hay Ride

1543 Friday, September 25

6 - 7:30 p.m. • All Ages • \$5, children 5 & under FREE

Prairie Wildflower Hike

1937 Saturday, September 26

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

Family Outdoor Cooking

McDowell Campground

1359 Saturday, September 12

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Ages 5 & up • \$5

Join us for this class as we taste some great camping recipes. We will be cooking over a campfire, using a box oven, Dutch oven, and pie iron.

Tiny Turtles

1678 Monday, September 14

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • Age 2 • \$3

Discover nature with your little one through crafts and activities related to turtles.

Family Campfire

McDowell Campground

1367 Friday, September 18

6:30 - 8 p.m. • All Ages • \$3, children 3 & under FREE

Join us around the campfire as we roast marshmallows and tell stories.



Letterboxing

1517 Saturday, September 19

10:30 a.m.- Noon • All Ages • \$3/family

Join us for a letterboxing hike and discover how your family can participate in this modern day treasure hunt at parks throughout the Charlotte region. Letterboxing journal and stamp included in price.

Teacher Workshop: Green Invaders

2069 Saturday, September 26

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 18 & up • FREE

Help save our native plants by teaching your students about invasive removal! Bring along some gardening gloves and a pair of gardening clippers and learn how to clear the way for our native plants!

Nature No School Days: TREEmendous Trees (CMS)

1849 Monday, September 28

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 6 - 8 • \$6

Enjoy a few hours to yourself while your child is engaged in a nature adventure. A snack and drink will also be provided. Programs scheduled in accordance with teacher workdays and holidays.

Reedy Creek Nature Center

2900 Rocky River Rd. Charlotte NC

704.598.8857

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Reedy Creek Nature Center at 704-598-8857. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.



Organization of Wildlife and Land Stewards
a Chapter of North Carolina Wildlife Federation

O.W.L.S. (Organization for Wildlife and Land Stewardship)

First Wednesday of the month, September - June

7 - 8:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Join this North Carolina Wildlife Federation chapter for a monthly program about wild things and wild places.

Hike for Your Health

Every Tuesday Evening

5 - 6 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • FREE

Take in the fresh air and sunshine that your body needs while enjoying a hike through our beautiful nature preserve! Get outside, get moving, and get healthy! Participants must be able to walk 2-3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

Yoga in the Preserve

Every Tuesday Evening

6:15 - 7:15 p.m. • Ages 12 and older

\$12 per class or 6 classes for \$60

Relax with yoga as you take in the sights and sounds of the preserve. Classes are taught by a certified yoga instructor. All levels are welcome and you may join at any time. Please wear comfortable clothing, bring a mat and water (there are a limited number of mats and props available).

Junior Master Wildlife Gardener Series

1415 Every first Tuesday of the month (September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, January 5, February 2)
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. • Ages 8 and older • \$42 includes all six courses

Join us to become a Certified Wildlife Gardener! The National Wildlife Federation and the Junior Master Gardener program have created a program to help children learn about wildlife habitats through community service. Certification requires a set number of group activities with the instructor as well as individual activities each week on their own.



Home school Science Series: Sense-ational

1546 Second and Fourth Tuesdays (September 8, September 22, October 13, October 27, November 10, November 24)
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 5 - 7 • \$30 includes all six courses

Join us for this exciting series that will take us on a journey of discovery using our five senses! Each session will help your child to develop a sense of place and a connection to the natural world through sight, sound, taste, smell and touch. We will also explore how the plants and animals of Reedy Creek use their senses for survival!

P.L.A.N.T. Club (Preschoolers Learning About Nature Together)

Every first Tuesday of the month
9:30 a.m.- 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$5 per child, Adult chaperone required.

Magnificent Mammals

1526 Tuesday, September 1
What kinds of animals come around your garden other than birds and butterflies? Many of them are mammals such as rabbits, deer and raccoons. Find out what mammals use our garden and what they like to eat.

Reedy Creek Nature Club for Youth!

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month
(September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16, January 19 and February 17)
4 - 6 p.m. • Ages 10 - 17 • \$40/ for 6 month membership

Join a naturalist for this new and exciting nature club for youth! We will explore Reedy Creek Nature Preserve, assist with projects, assist with animal care, get our hands dirty and have a blast as we connect with our surroundings! Be a part of something huge...lend nature a hand!

Nature's Play

1416 Wednesday, September 2
9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 0 - 5 • FREE

Bring the kids to play the natural way! While the kids play, meet others and find out the latest news on organic and natural parenting. Dress for weather. Adults must remain with children at all times.

Biking the Greenway

1194 Wednesday, September 2nd
6:30 - 8 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • FREE

Bring your bike for a ride through Four Mile Creek Greenway. Biking to the sounds of a very diverse wetland we will hear the many species of frogs as well as see the only Great Blue Heron Rookery in the county. Participants must be able to bike approximately 3 miles. Meet at the parking area next to The Shops at Piper Glen.

Hammocks Beach Camping

1352 Saturday to Monday September 5 - 7
Departing at 9 a.m. Sep. 5, arriving 5 p.m. Sep. 7
Ages 18 and up • \$190

Enjoy a weekend Camping at Hammocks Beach State Park's Bear Island, completely secluded from all commercialism. Turtle nesting season will be at its midpoint so we might catch a glimpse of some early hatchlings and with fishing season starting up its very likely to catch a great meal. The price includes everything food (with the exception of lunches while traveling), equipment and camping. We will also hold a pre trip meeting that is mandatory for all participants.

The NC Birding Trail Hike Series: Lower McAlpine and McMullen Creek Greenway

1441 Sunday, September 6

1:30 - 4 p.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

This 4-mile trail winds along both McAlpine and McMullen creeks in south Charlotte. The trail and boardwalks provide excellent access to a flood plain forest that is teeming with all sorts of wildlife. This includes birds like Wood Duck, Great Blue and Green Heron. Participants should bring a snack and a water bottle. Binoculars, field guides, and transportation are all included.

Reedy Creek History Hike

1361 Monday, September 7, Labor Day

2:30 - 4 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Did you know that the Reedy Creek Nature Preserve is on the national registry of historical sites? Come explore some of the oldest sites in Mecklenburg County. A hike to the Robinson Rock House ruins will help us consider what life was like before cars, computers and running water. Participants must be able to hike uneven terrain, 3 miles. A water bottle and closed toed shoes are strongly recommended.

Homeschool Science Series: A Reedy Creek Quest

1413 Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month (September 8, September 22, October 13, October 27, November 10, November 24)

1:30 -3:30 p.m. • Ages 8 and older • \$30 includes all six courses

Help us create a treasure hunt! Students will create clues and maps highlighting the special places and stories of Reedy Creek Nature Preserve. Participants must be able to hike long distances off trail. Close toed shoes and long shirts and pants are required for participation. Bring a water bottle.

Biking the Greenway

1159 Wednesday, September 9

6:30 - 8 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • FREE

Bring your bike for a ride through Four Mile Creek Greenway. Biking to the sounds of a very diverse wetland we will hear the many species of frogs as well as see the only Great Blue Heron Rookery in the county. Participants must be able to bike approximately 3 miles. Meet at the parking area next to The Shops at Piper Glen.

Discovery Days at Reedy Creek

1307 Saturday, September 12

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Goop, Ooblek and Slime oh my! It's time to get messy as you explore the world of chemistry. Discovery Place's ScienceReach team will be onsite with some icky, sticky science! (Note: Participants should wear clothing that can get dirty/soiled.)

Saturday, October 10

1302 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Make music with Discovery Place's ScienceReach team. Uncover various ways to create sound while learning about the physical properties including how sound waves travel, pitch and volume.

Saturday, November 14

2204 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

In collaboration with Discovery Place's exhibit Shipwreck! Pirates and Treasures costumes characters will be onsite to tell tales of the high sea. Activities surrounding marine archeology will also be explored.

Saturday, December 12

1278 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Gear up for fun - Discovery Place's ScienceReach presenters use hands-on demonstrations to teach about simple machines, magnets and levitation. Physics is cooler than you think!

Bodacious Beavers

1212 Friday, September 18

6:30 - 8 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • FREE

Join us on an exploration of the nocturnal world of the beaver! We'll start with a discussion of these fascinating creatures, and then head out into the preserve to snoop around the resident beaver colony at Reedy Creek Nature Preserve. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight.

Participants must be able to hike 2 -3 miles on uneven terrain.



Hawk Watch

1544 Thursday, September 17, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. & Saturday, September 19, 7 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

• Ages 16 and older • \$10 includes all materials, binocular use, transportation

Each fall, thousands of birders trek to the ridge tops of the mountains to witness the migration of North America's raptors. In the first session, participants will be introduced to the majesty of hawk migration, and learn the basics of identifying hawks and other raptors in flight. On Saturday, we will put our skills to the test at Pilot Mountain State Park. Sunscreen, lunch, snacks, and water are required for the Saturday field trip.



Butterflies of Mecklenburg County

1223 Sunday, September 20

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • FREE

Discover the beauty and intrigue of butterflies! We will explore the variety of butterfly species that inhabit Mecklenburg County and then venture outside in search of live specimens! Participants must be able to hike 2 - 3 miles on uneven terrain.

Festival in the Park:

*The Division of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources:
Your Gateway to Natural Places!*

Thursday, September 24 - Sunday, September 27

All day • All Ages • FREE

Join us at Freedom Park and find out what we are all about! Friday is kid's day. We'll have our furry friends and some not so furry ones on hand to share. Programs are ongoing and free to all ages. No registration necessary. Conservation professionals will be on hand to answer all your eco-questions.

Take A Child Outside Week Programs

Take a Hike!

September 24 - 30, 2009

Take a child outside week is an international program designed to help break down obstacles that keep children from discovering the natural world. Come share the beauty and wonder of Reedy Creek Nature Preserve. Take a hike! All hikes will be led by our naturalist.

Busy Beavers!

1534 Wednesday, September 23

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

1535 Wednesday, September 23

4 - 5 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Tremendous Trees!

1537 Tuesday, September 29

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

1538 Tuesday, September 29

4 - 5 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Birding Bonanza!

1530 Wednesday, September 30

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

1533 Wednesday, September 30

4 - 5 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

A Night at the Nature Center!

Friday, September 25 - 26

6 - 7 p.m. (drop-off), 9 - 10 a.m. (pick-up) • Ages 8 - 17 • \$30
(includes snack, breakfast, use of tent and programming)

Have you seen a night at the museum? Are you wondering what happens in the preserve and the nature center when everyone goes home for the night? Join a naturalist as we discover the preserve after hours! Activities include a night hike, campfire, animal program and more! Must be able to hike four miles at night on uneven terrain.

Think Outside the Box - Turtle that is!

1213 Sunday September 27

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 5 and older • FREE

Turtles are some of the most fascinating animals at our preserve and box turtles are no exception. Learn about these and other turtles with live animals as we take a hike searching for them.

Family Night Hike

1340 Wednesday, September 30

7 - 8:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Join a naturalist as we wrap up our Take a Child Outside Week Celebration with a family focused night hike. We will explore the preserve and see what there is to discover after hours!

October Programs

Latta Plantation Nature Center

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville

704.875.1391

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Latta Plantation Nature Center at 704-875-1391. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

'First Fridays' Senior Hiking Club

Buzzard Rock Trail Parking Lot

3254 Friday, October 2

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 50 and up • FREE

Active seniors find a different way to study nature as they explore the amazing trails of Latta Plantation Nature Preserve with friends old and new. Binoculars and field guides provided, or bring your own. Terrain & Distance: Moderate, approximately 1.5 - 3 miles.

Digital Photo Scavenger Hunt

935 Saturday, October 3

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • All ages • FREE

Come out to the nature preserve for a fun-filled adventure with your family. Bring your digital camera and sense of exploration and stop by the nature center anytime for a list of things to find.

Family Canoe Day

Horse Trailer Overflow Parking Lot

3260 Saturday October 3 • 9 a.m. - noon or 3261 1 - 4 p.m.

Ages 12 and older • \$12/adult, \$8/youth

Parents, looking for a great family activity? Well, load up the kids and come to Mountain Island Lake to spend some time relaxing as you explore many parts of the lake. Equipment provided. Bring water and a snack.



Fall Colors Hike

3068 Sunday, October 4

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 15 and older • \$4/adult

Its fall and the leaves are changing colors. Join us for a hike and learn why leaves change colors and which trees turn different colors.

Latta Plantation Nature Center Pre-K Garden Club

2805 Tuesday, October 6

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

Latta Plantation Nature Center Junior Garden Club

2831 Tuesday, October 6

2:30 - 4 pm • Ages 7 - 12 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

Latta Plantation Nature Center Adult Garden Club

2898 Tuesday, October 6

4:30 - 6 pm • Ages 18 and older • FREE

Come out and help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering, mulching, pruning, and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

Walk with a Naturalist: Autumn Leaves

3115 Saturday, October 10

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All ages • FREE

Are you interested in the natural world around you? Would you like to notice more when you are outside? Join us on these Saturday excursions that will focus on observing, exploring and appreciating the world around us. Terrain & Distance: Moderate, approximately 1.5 - 3 miles. No registration required.

Basic Camping Skills

3253 Saturday, October 10

10 a.m. - noon • 12 years and up • \$4

Come join us as we learn the basic skills of camping in the backcountry. We will learn the do's and don'ts of camping from packing properly and Leave No Trace, to safely storing your food from those pesky critters that come out at night. All equipment will be provided.

Kayaking and Fishing

Horse Trailer Parking Lot

3160 Saturday October 10 • 9 a.m.- noon

3161 Saturday October 17 • 9 a.m.- noon

Ages 12 and older • \$16/adult, \$11/youth

Come and enjoy Mountain Island Lake as you learn the basics of flat water kayaking along with trying to reel in the big one. After practicing the four basic strokes, we will explore the lake and try our hand at catching a wide variety of fish.



Kayak Tour on Mountain Island Lake

3230 Saturday, October 10 • 1 - 4 p.m.

3231 Saturday October 17 • 1 - 4 p.m.

Ages 12 and older • \$16/adult, \$11/youth

Join with us as we paddle on Mountain Island Lake. We will learn the parts of the boat, the four basic strokes, and how to enter and exit the kayak. Then, we will paddle along the shoreline and explore the lake. All equipment provided. Please bring water and a snack.

Latta Homeschoolers: Spooky Spiders

936 Wednesday, October 14

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

Despite all those Halloween decorations, spiders aren't really all that spooky once you learn about them. We will search for webs and play a game that explores how spiders use their senses.

Nature Nook: "Feathers for Lunch"

3191 Saturday, October 17

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3-6 with adult • \$2

Listen to the story, make a craft and learn all about birds in this monthly offering.

Nuts For The Woods

Picnic Area Parking Lot

3180 Saturday, October 17

1 - 3 p.m. • All ages • \$4/adult, \$3/child

Learn what's falling in the forest other than fall leaves. We'll enjoy a short guided hike followed by "nutty" recipes and samples of delicious nut bread. Bring some of your favorite recipes to share!

Garden Pests

3069 Sunday, October 18

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 15 and older • \$4/adult

Do you get tired of insects eating your plant leaves and killing your plants? Learn about some of these harmful insects and the beneficial ones that help keep pests away and make your plants healthy.

Sunset Fall Colors Hike

3070 Monday, October 19

5 - 7 p.m. • Ages 5 and older

\$4 adult, \$3/child

Come out for the evening and learn all about the colors of the fall and enjoy viewing a great sunset. We will meet at the Picnic Area parking Lot.



Hamburger Plant

3071 Sunday, October 25

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 6 - 10 • \$3/child

Is there such a thing as a hamburger plant? Come and learn how we depend on plants as our source of food.

Kayaking and Segway Adventure Day

Horse Trailer Overflow Parking Lot

3327 Saturday, October 31 • 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Ages 18 and older • \$50/adult

Join us for a full day of adventure at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve. We will start the day learning the basics of flat water kayaking and exploring Mountain Island Lake. After lunch, we will hit the trails on the Segway Adventure Tour. All equipment provided. Please bring water and snacks for the morning and a sack lunch.

McDowell Nature Center

15222 York Road, Charlotte

704-588-5224

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call McDowell Nature Center at 704-588-5224. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

Fitness Fridays

2027 Friday, October 2

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 16 & up • FREE

Commit to a healthy lifestyle and join us monthly for an aerobic based hike through the nature preserve. Each week we will enjoy new areas of the preserve while focusing on staying fit!

Sunset Family Hayride

1349 Friday, October 2

6 - 7:30 p.m. • All Ages • \$5, children 5 & under FREE

Bring the family out to enjoy a fun hayride through McDowell Nature Preserve. See different habitats and learn a little about what critters can be found!

Lake Wylie Weekend Kayak Tour

McDowell Waterfront

1272 Saturday, October 3

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 10 & up • \$11

Don't miss this opportunity every Saturday in September. Paddle the border of the Carolinas with views of the Buster Boyd Bridge, Copperhead Island and more. All equipment and instruction provided.

Camping with Little Ones

McDowell Campground

1518 Saturday, October 3

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. • Ages 5 & up • \$10/family

Learn fun camping recipes, safety tips, and how the entire family can take part in setting up camp. This is NOT an overnight program.

Babes in the Woods

1774 Tuesday, October 6

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • Ages 12 - 36 months • FREE

Take your baby on a journey to experience all the good things about nature and ways to spark the sense of wonder in your little one. Meet at the Four Seasons Trail.

Lake Wylie Moonlight Kayak Tour

McDowell Waterfront

1231 Tuesday, October 6

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Ages 10 & up • \$11

Kick back after work and join us for a relaxing moonlight kayak tour on Lake Wylie. All equipment and instruction provided.

Sunset Family Fishing

McDowell Waterfront

1519 Thursday, October 8

5:30 - 7 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Bring the whole family out for an evening of fishing and fun. Bait and tackle will be provided, just bring chairs to relax in and watch the sunset. Anyone 16 and older needs a NC fishing license.



Silly Spiders

1914 Friday, October 9

10 - 10:45 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

Join us with your preschooler as we read a fabulous animal tale and then enjoy crafts and activities related to spiders.

Forts and Hideouts

1523 Saturday, October 10

10 a.m. - noon • Ages 8 & up • \$5

Building a fort in the woods fosters a sense of adventure and promotes the development of analytical skills. Give your child the opportunity to practice the art and science of fort building in a safe and supervised manner.

Family Canoeing

McDowell Waterfront

1528 Saturday, October 10

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 5 & up • \$11, children 12 and under FREE

Learn the basic essentials of flat water canoeing as we take a tour along the shores of Lake Wylie and learn about its various ecosystems. Minimum of 1 adult per 2 children.

Nature No School Days: Just Batty (York)

1852 Monday, October 12

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 6 - 8 • \$6

Enjoy a few hours to yourself while your child is engaged in a nature adventure. A snack and drink will also be provided. Programs scheduled in accordance with teacher workdays and holidays.

Home School Special: Outdoor Living Skills

2191 Thursday, October 15

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

2192 Thursday, October 22

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$3

During this program we will learn the basic essentials of outdoor living skills including campfire construction, shelter building, and what you do in case of an emergency.

Home School Special: Microscopes 101: "e" lab

2193 Thursday, October 15

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$4

Prepare to learn through the use of microscopes. This pre-requisite course will teach what you need to know for our upcoming microscope classes.



Family Outdoor Cooking

McDowell Campground

1360 Saturday, October 17

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Ages 5 & up • \$5

Join us for this class as we taste some great camping recipes. We will be cooking over a campfire, using a box oven, Dutch oven, and pie iron.

Spider Sniffing

1529 Saturday, October 17

7:30 - 8 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Enjoy a leisurely themed hike with the family. Each month we will explore new areas of the nature preserve and uncover the secrets of the season.

Pine Needle Basketry

1547 Sunday, October 18

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 8 & up • \$5

Create an artistic piece you will be glad to showcase. An example of each craft will be available to view at the nature center two weeks prior to scheduled program.

Itsy Bitsy Spiders

1899 Monday, October 19

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • Age 2 • \$3

Discover nature with your little one through crafts and activities related to Spiders

Home School Special: Worms and Vermiculture

2195 Thursday, October 22

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 7-12 • \$3

Learn all about worms and why they are important to our environment. Each participant will need to bring a solid colored plastic shoe sized box, with lid, to create their own worm composting bin to take home.

Sunset Family Hayride

1351 Friday, October 23

5:30 - 7 p.m. • All Ages, \$5, children 5 & under FREE

Bring the family out to enjoy a fun hayride through McDowell Nature Preserve. See different habitats and learn a little about what critters can be found!

Family Campfire and Moonlight Hike

1555 Friday, October 30

6:30 - 8:45 p.m. • All Ages • \$5, children FREE

Enjoy stories, s'mores, and songs before going on a night hike under a nearly full moon. Minimum of 1 adult per 2 children.

Carolina Raptor Center Presents: Owls!

McDowell Pavilion

1557 Saturday, October 31

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. • All Ages • \$3, children 2 & under FREE

Discover the cultural and natural history of these amazing predators. Live owls will be part of this program presented by staff of the Carolina Raptor Center.

Reedy Creek Nature Center

2900 Rocky River Rd. Charlotte NC

704.598.8857

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Reedy Creek Nature Center at 704-598-8857. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

Hike for Your Health

Every Tuesday Evening

5 - 6 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • FREE

Take in the fresh air and sunshine that your body needs while enjoying a hike through our beautiful nature preserve! Get outside, get moving, and get healthy! Participants must be able to walk 2 - 3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

Yoga in the Preserve

Every Tuesday Evening

6:15 - 7:15 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$12 per class or 6 classes for \$60

Relax with yoga as you take in the sights and sounds of the preserve. Classes are taught by a certified yoga instructor. All levels are welcome and you may join at any time. Please wear



comfortable clothing, bring a mat and water (there are a limited number of mats and props available).

Big Sweep

1175 Saturday, October 3

9a.m.- 1 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • FREE

Evergreen Nature Preserve: Meet at Winterfield Elementary School Parking Lot

Big Sweep is a nationally based program to clean up lakes, rivers and streams and increase awareness about the protection of these resources. Discover the dangers that litter poses to wildlife, then go out along the shoreline for a cooperative litter sweep. Ages 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information and to register you or your group, call 704.598.8857.

P.L.A.N.T. Club (Preschoolers Learning About Nature Together)

Every first Tuesday of the month

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$5 per child, Adult chaperone required.

Fungus Among Us!

1525 Tuesday, October 6

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$5 per child

There's a fungus among us! Mushrooms, mildew, and mold are all around! Come find out how these strange life forms survive the forest.

Stone Mountain State Park

2021 Saturday, October 10

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Ages 16 and Older • \$10

Join us for an amazing and breath taking day hiking in the fresh mountain air and enjoying a waterfall! Designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded on the north by the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the west by the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands. Participants must be able to hike 5 - 6 miles of strenuous terrain. Bring a bag lunch, plenty of water and wear good hiking shoes

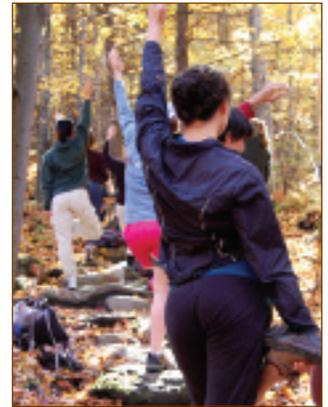
Yoga and Nature Retreat

3591 Thursday, October 15 - Sunday, October 18

Leaving at 2 p.m. on Thursday, returning between 3 - 4 p.m. on Sun. Ages 18 and older • \$375

An amazing escape to beautiful Lake Lure, North Carolina awaits you! Wake up to yoga and meditation, spend time in the sauna, take a long hike and commune with nature, paddle on the lake and

take in the wonder of a waterfall! These are some of the adventures that await you on this urban escape! There will be a mandatory trip meeting on October 13, 7:30 p.m. at Reedy Creek Nature Center. (Includes transportation, lodging, all activities, most meals, participants will be responsible for one dinner in town,)



Reedy Creek Haunted History Hike

1550 Sunday, October 25

2:30 - 4 p.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

The haunted history of Reedy Creek Nature Preserve is one that will leave you with goose bumps! Come explore some of the oldest historical sites in Mecklenburg County and find out the mystery behind the history. A hike to the Robinson Rock House ruins will uncover the scary side of this historical landmark. Participants must be able to hike uneven terrain, 3 miles. A water bottle and closed toed shoes are strongly recommended.

Out of School and Into Nature!

1511 Thursday, October 29

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$15 per student

Come spend your school-free day with us at the Reedy Creek Nature Center! We will explore the nature preserve and all things wild and wonderful. Participants should bring a bag lunch and a snack. Long sleeves, pants and closed toed shoes are required.

Creepy Crawly Critter Celebration!

1256 Friday, October 30

7 - 10 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Celebrate all that's creepy and crawly at Reedy Creek Nature Center on Halloween Eve! Most creatures in our world are not warm and fuzzy, but that doesn't make them any less lovable. Come see for yourself how these creatures play an important role in our environment. Live animals, costume contest, marshmallow roast, and trick or treating all included. FREE hot chocolate!

The NC Birding Trail Hike Series: Cane Creek Park

1421 Saturday, October 31

8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. • Ages 16 and older • \$5 per adult

Come see why Bald Eagles, Fox Sparrows and wintering waterfowl make Cane Creek Park in Union County their home. This habitat includes an oak forest, dry coniferous woodlands, and a mixture of hardwoods and pine. This site of 1050 acres also protects a population of the federally endangered Schweinitz's sunflower. Participants should bring a bag lunch and a water bottle. We will meet at the Reedy Creek Nature Center. Binoculars, field guides, and transportation are all included.

November Programs

Latta Plantation Nature Center

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville

704.875.1391

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Latta Plantation Nature Center at 704-875-1391. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

Totally Turtles!!

3072 Sunday, November 1

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 and over
• \$3/child

Come out and learn about some of the hard-shelled critters we have in Mecklenburg County and get a chance to meet some up close.

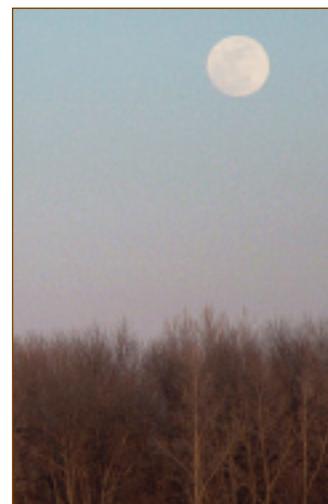


Full Moon Hike

938 Monday, November 2

5 - 7 p.m. • Ages 8 and older • \$4

Here is your chance to hike in the preserve guided by the light of a full moon. We will talk about which animals come out at night and maybe even catch glimpses of them on our hike! Meet at Latta Plantation Nature Center. Terrain: easy to moderate hills on gravel trails, 1.5 miles



Latta Plantation Nature Center Pre-K Garden Club

2807 Tuesday, November 3

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

Latta Plantation Nature Center Junior Garden Club

2833 Tuesday, November 3

2:30 - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

Latta Plantation Nature Center Adult Garden Club

2900 Tuesday, November 3

4:30 - 6 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

Come out and help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering, mulching, pruning, and transplanting. Long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended depending on the weather.

'First Fridays' Senior Hiking Club

Horse Trailer Parking Lot

3255 Friday, November 6

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 50 and up • FREE

Active seniors find a different way to study nature as they explore the amazing trails of Latta Plantation Nature Preserve with friends old and new. Binoculars and field guides provided, or bring your own. Terrain & Distance: Moderate, approximately 1.5 - 3 miles.



Winter Gardening

3076 Sunday, November 8

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 15 and older • \$4/adult

Come out and learn how to make your garden nice for the winter and how to protect your plants from the cold.

Nocturnally Yours Camp-In

938 Friday, November 13 - Saturday, November 14

6 p.m. - 9 a.m. • Ages 6 - 12 with adult • \$30 per child, no fee for adult

Participants will have the opportunity to explore the nature preserve and its nocturnal animals and then camp-in at the nature center! Activities include dissecting an owl pellet, making an animal track to take home and going on a night hike. Also included are light snacks before bed and breakfast in the morning.

Walk with a Naturalist: Signs of Wildlife

3118 Saturday, November 14

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All ages • FREE

Are you interested in the natural world around you? Would you like to notice more when you are outside? Join us on these Saturday excursions that will focus on observing, exploring and appreciating the world around us. Terrain & Distance: Moderate, approximately 1.5 - 3 miles. No registration required.

Tracks & Traces

3181 Sunday, November 15

2 - 4 p.m. • All ages • \$4/adult, \$3/child

Learn how to ID common animals by the signs they leave behind and create your own animal track to take home.

Latta Homeschoolers: Watershed Wonders

947 Wednesday, November 18

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

Students will have the chance to explore a watershed using a hands-on model. Then we will discuss issues and possible solutions for our real-life watersheds!

Nature Nook: "Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf"

3067 Saturday, November 21

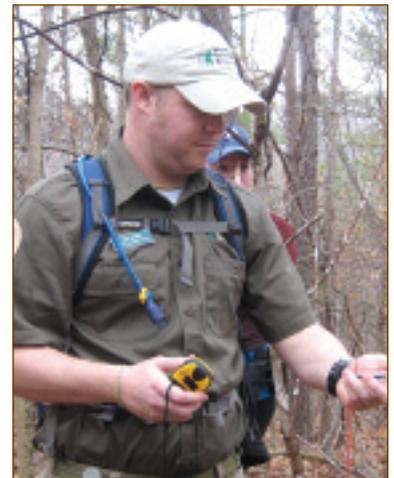
10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 6 with adult • \$2

Listen to the story, make a craft and learn all about trees and their leaves in this monthly offering.

Explore Latta Plantation Nature Preserve by GPS

3282 Saturday, November 21 • 9 a.m. - noon or 3283 • 1 - 4 p.m.

Seeking adventure? Join us for the high tech treasure hunt game of Geocaching at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve. You will learn the functions of a Garmin e-Trex GPS unit and how to locate and find various types of caches. GPS units are provided or bring your own. Please bring water and a snack. Terrain & Distance: level to moderate. Approx. 3 miles.



Turkey Tales

3162 Sunday, November 22

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 4 and older • \$3/child

Turkeys are fascinating birds. Come out and learn all about our big feathered friends and even participate in a craft related to the turkey.

BSA: Environmental Science Merit Badge

998 Saturday, November 28

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 12 - 18 • \$15

Boy Scouts in the Mecklenburg council will achieve their Environmental Science merit badge upon completion of this course. All scouts must bring their merit badge books; lunch will be provided.

Mud Pies

3079 Sunday, November 29

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 3 - 8 • \$3/child

Yummy! Mud pie sounds good. Make a mud pie and learn about soil, how it feels, and why it is important to plants especially in our garden.

McDowell Nature Center

15222 York Road, Charlotte

704-588-5224

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call McDowell Nature Center at 704-588-5224. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

Babes in the Woods

1775 Monday, November 2

10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Ages 12 - 36 months • FREE

Take your baby on a journey to experience all the good things about nature and ways to spark the sense of wonder in your little one. Meet at the Four Seasons Trail.



Chirp 'n Chatter Store Presentations Radical Reptiles

805 Crossroads Plaza, Fort Mill, SC

1558 Wednesday, November 4

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Visit our Southwest Charlotte neighborhood birding and wildlife habitat store for a series of programs presented by McDowell Nature Center staff. Chirp 'n Chatter is a proud sponsor of Park and Recreation programs and events.

Home School Special: Microscopes 101 - Plant Cells

2197 Thursday, November 5

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$4

View different plant cells through the microscope and learn the basic structures found within the cell. *Participants MUST have completed the "e" lab pre-requisite program*

Fitness Fridays

2028 Friday, November 6

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 16 & up • FREE

Commit to a healthy lifestyle and join us monthly for an aerobic based hike through the nature preserve. Each week we will enjoy new areas of the preserve while focusing on staying fit!

Nature No School Days: Autumn Adventure (CMS)

1859 Wednesday, November 11

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 6 - 8 • \$6

Enjoy a couple of hours to yourself while your child is engaged in a nature adventure. A snack and drink will also be provided. Programs scheduled in accordance with teacher workdays and holidays.



Home School Special: Outdoor Cooking

2199 Thursday, November 12

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$5

2200 Thursday, November 19

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$5

During this program we will learn some outdoor cooking techniques you can enjoy on your next camping trip. We will be cooking over a campfire and be using a box oven, Dutch oven and pie iron.

Home School Special: Weather Warriors

2201 Thursday, November 12

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

Become a meteorologist by making your own weather station and creating a weather journal.

Talkin' Turkey

1915 Friday, November 13

10 - 10:45 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

Join us with your preschooler as we read a fabulous animal tale and then enjoy crafts and activities related to turkeys.

Trees of McDowell

1919 Saturday, November 14

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

Enjoy a leisurely themed hike with the family. Each month we will explore new areas of the nature preserve and uncover the secrets of the season.



Turkey Time

1901 Monday, November 16

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • Age 2 • \$3

Discover nature with your little one through crafts and activities related to turkeys.

Nature Science Fair

2203 Tuesday & Wednesday November 17 & 18

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 11 • FREE

2203 Tuesday & Wednesday November 17 & 18

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • FREE

Come take part in McDowell Nature Center's first ever Nature Science Fair! Create a display for your science project and then come set it up on Nov. 17 to be judged the following day.

BSA Reptile and Amphibian Study

\$5/scout

Upon completion of this course and two additional home requirements, all registered Boy Scouts in both Palmetto and Mecklenburg Council can earn the Reptile and Amphibian Study merit badge. This is a one day, two hour course.

BSA Environmental Science

\$15/scout

Upon completion of this course, all registered Boy Scouts in both Palmetto and Mecklenburg Council can earn the Environmental Science merit badge. This is a six hour course spread over three days.

Contact the McDowell Nature Center to set up either class for your troop.

Leave No Trace

2096 Wednesday, November 18

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Ages 16 & up • \$5

Millions of people visit parks and nature preserves every year, which can have a negative effect on the surrounding environment. Come learn how you can minimize your own impact and "Leave No Trace."

Home School Special: Microscopes 101 - Animal Cells

2202 Thursday, November 19

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$4

View different animal cells, including some of your own, through the microscope and learn the basic structures found within the cell. Participants MUST have completed the "e" lab pre-requisite program.*

Creating Your Own Bird Suet

1923 Sunday, November 22

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 8 & up • \$5

Create an artistic piece you will be glad to showcase. An example of each craft will be available to view at the nature center 2 weeks prior to scheduled program.

Day After Thanksgiving Camp

2004 Friday, November 27

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 - 12 • \$25

Let us entertain and educate your child while you hit those sales. The day will include games, crafts, live animal encounters, nature hikes and lots of fun!

Reedy Creek Nature Center

2900 Rocky River Rd. Charlotte NC

704.598.8857

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Reedy Creek Nature Center at 704-598-8857. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.



Forest Harvest Hike

1343 Sunday, November 1

2 - 3:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

It's harvest time of year! Join a naturalist as we learn about what the animals of Reedy Creek are harvesting this time of year. Participants must be able to hike 3 - 4 miles on uneven terrain.

P.L.A.N.T. Club (Preschoolers Learning About Nature Together)

Every first Tuesday of the month

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$5 per child, Adult chaperone required.

Talking Turkey

1527 Tuesday, November 3

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$2 per child

We all think about turkeys on Thanksgiving. Now we can learn a little more about them and what they like to eat. We will learn how to walk and talk like turkeys and make a craft. Adult chaperone required.

The NC Birding Trail Hike Series: Reedy Creek Nature Preserve

1448 Saturday, November 7

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

Come see why Broad-winged Hawks, Wood Thrushes and Brown Headed Nuthatches make Reedy Creek Nature Preserve their home. This habitat includes a mixture of oak forest and mixed hardwoods and pine and includes over 735 acres. Participants should bring a bag lunch and a water bottle. Binoculars, field guides, and transportation are all included for your use.



Out of School and Into Nature!

1511 Wednesday, November 11

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Ages 8-12 • \$15 per student

Come spend your school free day with us at the Reedy Creek Nature Center! We will explore the nature preserve and all things wild and wonderful.

Riverbend Park

3773 Saturday, November 14

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 10 and older • \$10

Join a naturalist as we escape into nature! Riverbend Park is located in Catawba County and offers miles of hiking trails through gentle rolling hills. We will hike along the Catawba River and each lunch on the banks. Must be able to hike 4 - 5 miles on uneven terrain.

Wildlife Signs

3776 Saturday November 21

10:30 a.m. - Noon • All Ages • \$2

During the day most wildlife are tucked away from human sight but we know they are there by the signs they leave. Join us as we look for signs that tell us who is calling Reedy Creek home. Must be able to hike 2 miles on uneven terrain. Stay after the hike and make a track to take home!

Nature Art

3772 Saturday, November 21

2 - 3 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Nature provides the perfect medium for artistic creation! We will use natural elements found in the forest to create inspiring and beautiful masterpieces! Don't forget to bring a camera!

Fun in Nature

3771 Wednesday, November 25

9 a.m. - noon • Ages 6 - 12 • \$10

Kids, come and hang out at Reedy Creek while the family finishes preparing for Thanksgiving! A fun-filled morning hiking and exploring the forest awaits you!



Walk off the Turkey Hike

3774 / 3775 Friday, November 27

10:30 a.m. - noon and 2 - 3:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Have family in town and looking for something to do? Feel like you don't need to eat for another week? Join us as we hike some of that food off and enjoy the fresh forest air! This will be a moderately paced hike of 3 - 4 miles on uneven terrain.

Explore RibbonWalk Nature Preserve

3769 Saturday, November 28

10:30 - noon • All Ages • FREE

Explore the beauty of this urban gem! RibbonWalk sparkles this

time of year with the golden leaves of the Beech tree. Join us as we hike to the Beech Grove and take it all in! Must be able to hike 2 - 3 miles on uneven terrain.

Wildlife Winter Survival

3777 Saturday, November 28

2 - 3 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

How do the wildlife of Reedy survive the winter? Explore the many trials that these animals face during the cold winter months. Program includes a one mile hike on uneven terrain.



Give Thanks for the Birds!

1548 Sunday, November 29

1:30 - 3 p.m. • All ages • FREE

Juncos, kinglets, white-throated sparrows, and other Charlotte winter resident songbirds have arrived for the cold weather. Come help us make our bird feeders and garden ready for their stay. Find out how to identify these birds and how to attract them to your backyard.

ADA STATEMENT

Mecklenburg County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of ability. Mecklenburg County will make reasonable accommodations in all programs to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements.

Mecklenburg County programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodations are necessary for participation in any program or service, participants are required to notify staff (at least 72 hours prior to program). This information is available in an alternative format for persons with disabilities upon request.



**Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation**

*The Natural Place
To Be...*

